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Mahathir - Cabinet

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said today that the Federal Cabinet meeting is being held in Kuching on Wednesday to strengthen the Central Government's relations with Sarawak. (P)

The Prime Minister said the Federal Government was always striving towards closer links with Sarawak and also Sabah.

Speaking to reporters after attending the Workers Day rally here, he said apart from wanting to forge closer ties, the Federal Government did not have any specific objective in holding the meeting in Sarawak.

The Prime Minister was asked whether the move to hold the Federal Cabinet meeting in Kuching was connected to the Sarawak state elections which should be held before April next year.

+We have long stipulated that the Federal Cabinet meeting at times be held in the various states,+ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said. -- more

♥20/05/13-19MST

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Mahathir - Cabinet 2 Kuala Lumpur

The Federal Cabinet meeting had been held outside Kuala Lumpur in the past. It was held in Langkawi last year when various development projects were being planned for the island.

On the possibility of Parti Ransa Dayak Sarawak (PRDS) joining the Sarawak BN Tiga (State Barisan Nasional comprising the PRR, SNAP and SUPP), he said: +We indeed want them back (with the BN).+

However certain problems needed to be resolved first, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir who is BN Chairman.

The PRDS is a component of the BN at Federal level but functions as an opposition in the Sarawak State Assembly.

Replying to a question, he said the BN indeed wanted to foster links with all parties including opposition parties. -- Bernama

♥20/05/14-04MST